

JR:FDKohler:sj

(Drafting Office and Officer)

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE



Memorandum of Conversation

Camp David

DATE: 9/27/59

1:45 p.m.

SUBJECT: Joint Communiqué

PARTICIPANTS: US
The President
The Secretary
Amb. Lodge
Mr. Kohler
Mr. Irwin
Amb. Thomason
Mr. Merchant
Gen. Goodpaster
Mr. Akalovsky
COPIES TO: S/S
G - Mr. Merchant
C - Mr. Reinhardt
EUR - Mr. Kohler
P - Mr. Berding
INR - Mr. Cumming
S/P - Mr. Smith

USSR
Chairman Khrushchev
Mr. Gromyko
Amb. Menshikov
Mr. Soldatov
Mr. Troyanovsky
The White House - Gen. Goodpaster
Ambassador Moscow, Ambassador Thompson

Following the morning meeting beginning at 11:45 a.m., and lasting for some 20 minutes, on September 27, between the President and Chairman Khrushchev, the U.S. side prepared a draft communiqué, enclosed as U.S. Draft (Tab 1). After this had been approved by the President, Secretary Herter and aides went over the text with Foreign Minister Gromyko and aides. Following their discussions, which began about 12:40 and ended shortly after 1:00, a new draft was prepared which represented the results of the minister-level discussions, including bracketed language representing points not yet agreed; this is attached as Joint Draft (Tab 2). The Joint Draft was presented to the President and Chairman Khrushchev at 1:45 p.m. It was reviewed by the principals in the presence of Secretary Herter and Foreign Minister Gromyko and other aides on both sides.

After reading the Joint Draft, Chairman Khrushchev asked for the elimination of the first parenthetical phrase reading "but that there would be no fixed time limit on them". He confirmed that he had agreed substantively to the language included in this sentence. However, he felt inclusion in the communiqué of the parenthetical phrase would lead to difficult and embarrassing interpretations. In particular it would be claimed as a "great victory for Adenauer", who had spoken of spinning talks and negotiations out for as much as eight years.

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The President said that it might be possible to consider omitting the whole sentence provided he said to his own American people that there was, in fact, to be "no fixed time limit".

Mr. Khrushchev said that he could confirm such a statement if the President made it.

The Secretary then commented to the President that the omission of this important phrase could be very dangerous.

Gromyko, taking the other tack, said that the inclusion of this language might allow negotiations to go on for as much as fifty years or more.

Mr. Khrushchev then proposed that the entire sentence be omitted. The President would make this statement publicly but separately and Khrushchev would confirm publicly his agreement to the President's statement.

The President then said the thing that bothered him was that this sentence represented exactly what had been agreed between himself and the Chairman and that he could not understand why the Chairman was not willing to say so in the communique.

Mr. Khrushchev said that he did not want the language in the communique since this would enable Adenauer to use it for his own purpose.

The President then said that actually without this sentence he saw no use in having a communique at all. Except for that sentence the rest of the communique was a collection of generalities.

Mr. Khrushchev replied that he thought the communique was important for its tone and its mention and highlighting of the important question of disarmament and the like. If there were no communique he thought we would run the risk of many false interpretations of what had happened during the talks.

The President then summarized, saying that at first he had thought that there should be no communique at all. Later he had agreed that a communique should be prepared when Mr. Khrushchev said that he wanted one. However, the sentence in question was the nub of their agreement. He did not see why the inclusion of the statement in the communique would be of any special use to Chancellor Adenauer.

Mr. Khrushchev replied that the language might be used to justify the indefinite prolongation of negotiations.

Mr. Gromyko

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Mr. Gromyko added that moreover a statement by the President of the United States, confirmed by Chairman Khrushchev, was just as strong as the communique.

The President commented that he still could not see why he and the Chairman should not make this statement together rather than separately.

Mr. Khrushchev said that if a statement were to be included in the communique, he would have to introduce a number of minor amendments and thus prolong the discussion. The parenthetical phrase stating that there would be no fixed time limit was firm and specific, whereas the beginning of the sentence, to the effect that "negotiations should not be prolonged indefinitely" was much less clear and firm.

The President pointed out that this language to him was directly connected with a question of a summit meeting, as he had told Mr. Khrushchev earlier that day. He did not know what he would be able to say to his allies on this subject.

Mr. Khrushchev repeated that the President could make this statement and that he would not deny it.

The President then continued that he would have to make a statement giving his own interpretation of the meaning of the communique in this respect.

Mr. Khrushchev said that each party would then have to give its own interpretation. He said the Soviets wanted a summit meeting but felt that such a meeting would not be useful unless there were a mutual desire for it.

The President then said he would agree to the dropping of the sentence from the communique but would use the language in a press conference. He repeated, however, that he did not understand Mr. Khrushchev's unwillingness to include the sentence in the communique.

Mr. Gromyko then brought up the question of the final parenthetical sentence saying it would not represent accurately his proposal. He offered two alternative insertions: either that the language should say "all questions arising between the two countries should be settled" etc., or that "all outstanding international questions".

The Secretary indicated that we preferred the latter formulation and the President indicated his assent to this language. (At this point, Mr. Akalovsky overheard Mr. Gromyko explaining to

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his own group that the interpretation which the Soviets would give to "international questions" would not include matters which the Soviet Union regarded as internal in nature, i.e. presumably Taiwan, etc.)

Amended versions of the communique as finally agreed were then given to Messrs. Hagerty and Berding for issuance in Gettysburg. The meeting terminated shortly after 2:00 p.m. and the President and Chairman Khrushchev and party departed by motorcade for Washington. The draft of the final communique, as issued, is attached as Tab 3.

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U.S. Draft - No. 1

COMMUNIQUE

Chairman Khrushchev and President Eisenhower have had a frank exchange of opinions at Camp David. In some of these conversations United States Secretary of State Herter and Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko, as well as other officials from both countries, participated.

Chairman Khrushchev and the President have agreed that these discussions have been useful in clarifying each other's position on a number of subjects. The talks were not undertaken to negotiate issues. It is hoped, however, that their exchanges of views will contribute to a better understanding of the motives and position of each and thus to the achievement of a just and lasting peace.

The Chairman and the President agreed that the question of general disarmament is the most important one facing the world today. With respect to Berlin, an understanding was reached, subject to the approval of France and Great Britain, the other two occupying powers in Berlin, that negotiations would be reopened with a view to achieving a solution satisfactory not only to the four occupying powers but also to the people of West Berlin and others directly concerned. It was further agreed that these negotiations should not be prolonged indefinitely but that there would be no time limit on them.

In addition to these matters, useful conversations were held on a number of questions affecting the relations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States. These subjects included the possibility of expanding trade in peaceful goods. With respect to an increase in exchanges of persons and ideas, substantial progress was made in discussions between officials and it is expected that certain agreements will be reached after further negotiation.

Finally it was agreed that an exact date for the return visit of the President to the Soviet Union next spring would be arranged through diplomatic channels.

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Joint Draft - No. 2

JOINT SOVIET-UNITED STATES COMMUNIQUE

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., N. S. Khrushchev, and President Eisenhower have had a frank exchange of opinions at Camp David. In some of these conversations United States Secretary of State Herter and Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko, as well as other officials from both countries, participated.

Chairman Khrushchev and the President have agreed that these discussions have been useful in clarifying each other's position on a number of subjects. The talks were not undertaken to negotiate issues. It is hoped, however, that their exchanges of view will contribute to a better understanding of the motives and position of each and thus to the achievement of a just and lasting peace.

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. and the President of the United States agreed that the question of general disarmament is the most important one facing the world today. Both governments will make every effort to achieve a constructive solution of this problem.

In the course of the conversations an exchange of views took place on the question of Germany including the question of a peace treaty with Germany, in which the positions of both sides were expounded.

With respect to the specific question of Berlin, an understanding was reached, subject to the approval of the other parties directly concerned, that negotiations would be reopened with a view to achieving a solution which would be in accordance with the interests of all concerned and in the interest of the maintenance of peace. It was further agreed that these negotiations should not be prolonged indefinitely (but that there would be no fixed time limit on them).*

In addition to these matters useful conversations were held on a number of questions affecting the relations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States. These subjects included the question of trade between the two countries. With respect to an increase in exchanges of persons and ideas, substantial progress was made in discussions between officials and it is expected that certain agreements will be reached in the near future.

Finally

*(Last clause objected to by Mr. Gromyko)

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(The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the President agreed that all questions should be settled not by the application of force but by peaceful means through negotiation.)* *

Finally it was agreed that an exact date for the return visit of the President to the Soviet Union next spring would be arranged through diplomatic channels.

* *(Suggested by Mr. Gromyko)



THE WHITE HOUSE

(Gettysburg, Pennsylvania)

JOINT UNITED STATES - SOVIET COMMUNIQUE

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, N. S. Khrushchev, and President Eisenhower have had a frank exchange of opinions at Camp David. In some of these conversations United States Secretary of State Herter and Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko, as well as other officials from both countries, participated.

Chairman Khrushchev and the President have agreed that these discussions have been useful in clarifying each other's position on a number of subjects. The talks were not undertaken to negotiate issues. It is hoped, however, that their exchanges of view will contribute to a better understanding of the motives and position of each and thus to the achievement of a just and lasting peace.

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the President of the United States agreed that the question of general disarmament is the most important one facing the world today. Both governments will make every effort to achieve a constructive solution of this problem.

In the course of the conversations an exchange of views took place on the question of Germany including the question of a peace treaty with Germany, in which the positions of both sides were expounded.

With respect to the specific Berlin question, an understanding was reached, subject to the approval of the other parties directly concerned, that negotiations would be reopened with a view to achieving a solution which would be in accordance with the interests of all concerned and in the interest of the maintenance of peace.

In addition to these matters useful conversations were held on a number of questions affecting the relations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States. These subjects included the question of trade between the two countries. With respect to an increase in exchanges of persons and ideas, substantial progress was made in discussions between officials and it is expected that certain agreements will be reached in the near future.

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The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the President of the United States agreed that all outstanding international questions should be settled not by the application of force but by peaceful means through negotiation.

Finally it was agreed that an exact date for the return visit of the President to the Soviet Union next spring would be arranged through diplomatic channels.